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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 and 38-40 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 21-37 are pending. Claim 21 has been amended to further clarify the claimed subject matter. No new matter has been added by the foregoing amendment.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 21-40 were rejected for non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,587,682. A Terminal Disclaimer is respectfully submitted herewith, together with a Power of Attorney and Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b). The fee for the Terminal Disclaimer may be charged to Deposit Account No. 501922. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection has been overcome.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 38-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Shoji in combination with Braun. Claims 38-40 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicant's ability to pursue such claims in a continuing application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is moot.

* * *

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are allowable in their current form, and requests that a Notice of Allowance issue for these claims at the earliest opportunity. If the Examiner has any questions or issues that can be resolved via Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at 512-473-2550, ext. 102.

Respectfully submitted,



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